

Today

Timely issues, news,
features, including
family, food, fashion



Graffiti Colors Valley

Spray-Painted Signatures Document History

By **TORRI LATIMER**
Asst. Today Editor

From the highest mountain top to the deepest underground subway station, "graffiti," the Italian word meaning "scribbling" or "scratching," documents man's attempt to live forever.

"Kilroy" was here, and so was John, Carla, Bob, Francisco and thousands of other spray-paint artists who have been decorating rocks, walls, buildings and billboards for decades.

Psychologists claim most graffiti artists have a great desire to leave their "mark" on mankind, therefore the most common inscription is their own name or initials.

Utah Valley has its own breed of "scribblers" on the loose. Although there is a noticeable lack of graffiti on area buildings, one out-of-town

visitor noticed the often overlooked, but most obvious "graffito" symbol.

"I've never met a group of people with such a passion for writing on mountain walls!" she said.

The white cement block "Y", blazing above the entire valley, is only one of several similar insignias found throughout the state.

Not everyone enjoys the free-spirited "art" of graffiti, however.

What is decorating to some is considered defacing by others. Brigham Young University officials have sand-blasted "the writing on the walls" off of campus buildings and billboards more than once in recent years.

Some local graffiti is a part of community tradition. Spanish Fork High School has a "spirit rock", a huge boulder

located on school grounds.

Since its inception in 1970, the rock has been painted approximately 280 times (20 per year). The decorating has now become a traditional way of celebrating school dances, athletic events, graduation ceremonies, and cross-town rivalries.

Other areas also show the marks and scars of recognition-hungry man. The Alpine Loop in Provo Canyon has a whole forest of "name trees," more officially known of as Quaking Aspens. Nature seekers have carved hundreds of names and initials into the pliable white bark on the tree trunks.

In Utah, the writing seems to be confined to and blended in with nature, and is found mostly on mountains, rocks and trees.

On the east coast of Amer-

ica, however, city-dwellers have found their own means of expression. There is no graffiti more prevalent or famous than that found on the noisy subway cars in New York City.

School children make a game out of sneaking into train yards at night, armed with cans of multi-colored spray paint. Not an inch of metal on the trains, inside or out, is spared.

The results are to Rembrandts what break-dancing is to ballet: Up-beat, unconventional, but definitely artistic.

Historians say the term "Graffito," plural "Graffiti," was adopted by archaeologists as a general term for the casual writings, rude drawings and markings on ancient buildings. These were distinctly different from deliberate writings, termed "inscriptions."

These "graffiti," were often scratched on stone or plaster by a sharp instrument, or written in red chalk or black charcoal. They are found in great numbers on the monuments of ancient Egypt.

Graffiti are important to historians because they illustrate the forms and corruptions of various alphabets and languages used by ancient peoples.

They are also used as a guide to determine the age of a building. They are chiefly valued for the light they throw on the everyday life of the "man in the street."

The most famous ancient

graffito is that generally accepted as representing a caricature of Christ upon the cross, found on the walls of the Domus Gelotiana on the Palatine in 1857. It is now preserved in the Kircherian Museum of the Collegio Romano.

Psychologists say modern man will continue to put his signature on any blank spaces available. It might not be pretty, but it could prove to be a valuable insight into our culture for future historians.

Obviously, "What is one man's trash, is another man's treasure!"

Weather Report

Central Utah Summary

City	Yesterday Precip.	Temps Hi-Lo
Alpine	.00	81-52
Fairfield	.00	88-52
Heber	.00	80-48
Orem	.00	85-56
Pl. Grove	tr.	81-56
Provo	tr.	86-56
Sp. Fork	tr.	90-51
Temp Cave	tr.	80-50

Provo Yesterday
Humidity Range: 87-38%
Peak Wind: 22 mph
Evaporation: .23

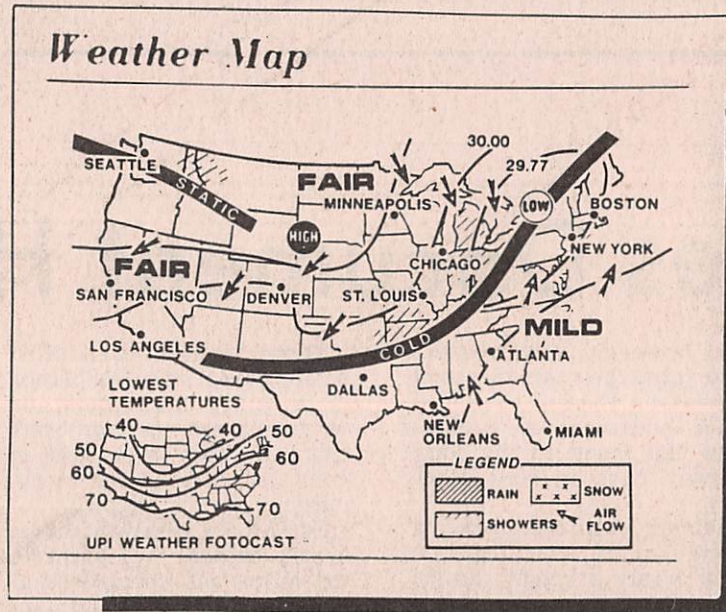
Provo Precipitation (Inches)

Month	'82-'83	'83-'84
October	2.82	1.39
November	1.80	4.20
December	2.31	6.00
January	2.22	1.05
February	3.93	1.53
March	3.41	1.98
April	1.95	3.77
May	4.04	0.73
June	0.97	
July	2.11	
August	4.38	
September	2.37	

Water Year 32.31 20.65

Almanac Provo Temperatures

Weather Map



Idaho Falls
Lewiston
Logan
Ogden
Pocatello
Richfield
Roosevelt
Salt Lake City
St. George
Wendover

62 42
63 40 16
65 50 .07
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62 45
88 46
82 45
70 48 t
99 76
73 52

with a few showers Saturday. Lows tonight mid 30s to the mid 40s. A little warmer Saturday with highs mostly in the 60s.

Southwest Idaho: Variable clouds and a chance of showers tonight. Partly cloudy with a few showers Saturday mainly over the mountains. Lows tonight from the mid 30s to the mid 40s. A little warmer Saturday with highs from the mid 60s to the mid 70s.

Southeast Idaho: Variable clouds and a chance of showers today and tonight. Partly cloudy Saturday with a few showers mainly over mountains. Highs 60s to the low 70s. Lows tonight 35 to 45.

"With all the lightning overnight and this morning, it was like a regular lightning show," said Greg Dickey, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Chicago said.

Scattered power outages were reported in the Moline and Rock Island areas of western Illinois.

Temperatures in the 30s stung the northern Plains and the Northwest, where the 31 at Yakima, Wash., tied a record.

The National Weather Service said the unseasonably warm temperatures in the Southwest helped speed snow melt over the central Rockies, causing rapid rises in most rivers and streams. North of the front, cooler air helped slow runoff over the northern Plateau.

Temperatures soared into the 90s and 100s in the Southwest Thursday. Albuquerque, N.M., set a temperature record for the eighth time this month with a reading of 96, El Paso, Texas, tied the record high for the date with 100 and Pueblo, Colo., had a high of 97.

The Army Corps of Engineers approved a contract for a Wyoming firm to begin building a half-mile-long dike today to divert the Little Snake River away from the town of Baggs. For more than 10 days the 500 townspeople have lived with a pattern of low flood levels in the morning because cool nights slow the snowmelt, and higher levels in the afternoon as snowmelt flows down the Little Snake.

"I don't look for (the runoff) to peak until June 12," said Allen Bergstrand, Carbon County, Wyo., emergency coordinator. He said snow at higher elevations still has not melted much.

Colorado was plagued by high winds and hail on the eastern Plains, and high water west of the Continental Divide.

Morgan County in northeast Colorado was hit by three tornado touchdowns late Thursday. They pulverized an empty house, tore away part of a school roof, cracked telephone poles and destroyed a grainery. No injuries were reported.

On Colorado's Western Slope, "the worst is still ahead," deputy director David

Briefs

Payson's 2nd Annual Race Planned For Memorial Day

PAYSON — Payson will conduct its 2nd annual Main Street Mile Road Race on Memorial Day, Monday, at 10 a.m. The race will begin at the South end of Main Street near the high school and proceed directly north to the city park. The course is downhill and one mile long.

Last year over 300 runners from all over Utah participated. All who finish will receive a T-shirt

or a Singlet as well as a free pass to the swimming pool good for that day.

Runners will be divided into divisions according to age and sex: 50 years & up, 40-49 years, 35-39 years, 30-34 years, 25-29 years, 20-24 years, 16-19 years, 12-15 years, 9-11 years, 8 years & under.

Registration will be from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. at the city park.

Applications Now Accepted For Annual Deaf Awards

The Utah Scholarship Foundation for the Deaf is accepting applications for the annual scholarship awards.

The Ned C. Wheeler Memorial Scholarship Award of \$300 and General Scholarship Award of \$200 will be awarded to qualified applicants.

All applications must be submitted to Barbara Bass, Secre-

tary-Treasurer, 5124 South 2325 West, Roy 84067 by June 30.

The scholarship awards are open to any hearing-impaired graduating high school student or college student currently enrolled in a college program.

For more information, contact Edith Wheeler, 479-9558 in Ogden, or Marian Hunt, 571-5875 in Sandy.